



News Release

WISCONSIN ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY

Wisconsin and Wisconsin National Guard host government officials from Nicaragua

The Wisconsin National Guard and other state agencies have been hosting an official delegation from the government of Nicaragua this week in Madison. The visiting Nicaraguan government officials are in Wisconsin as part of a state partnership program recently established between the Wisconsin National Guard and the Central American nation.

Partnerships between U.S. state governments and other nations are intended to build long-standing institutional affiliations and people-to-people relationships with nations currently establishing democratic military organizations. The National Guard's state partnership program began in 1993 with partnerships established between three U.S. states and the new Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, which had recently emerged as sovereign states from the former Soviet Union. Thirty-three states, two territories and the District of Columbia have partnerships with 34 countries around the world.

The Nicaragua delegation includes 10 officials from a variety of government ministries. Nicaragua's defense minister, Dr. Jose Guerra, was among the delegates visiting Wisconsin.

Thursday is the delegation's last full day in Wisconsin. Members of the Nicaragua delegation will end their day— and this first visit to Wisconsin — with a tour of a large Dane County dairy farm. The Nicaraguan officials and their hosts will visit the Statz Brothers farms near Sun Prairie at 6 p.m. this evening. The farms are located at the intersection of Highway 19 and Dane County Highway VV. News media are welcome to cover this visit, where officials from both Nicaragua and Wisconsin will be available to speak about the state partnership.

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